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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW OF THE RESULTS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETINGS AT THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EXAMINE THE STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

Note by the Secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to its resolution 47/99 of 16 December 1992, entitled "Examination of the status of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances", the General Assembly held five high-level plenary meetings at its forty-eighth session. Following the deliberations of the high-level plenary meetings, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/12 of 28 October 1993, on measures to strengthen international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities.

2. In that resolution, the General Assembly renewed its commitment to further strengthen international cooperation and increase substantially efforts against the illicit production, sale, demand, trafficking and distribution. It called upon States that had not yet done so to ratify the international drug control treaties and to implement fully their provisions. It also called upon all States to adopt the requisite national laws and regulations to strengthen national judicial systems and to undertake effective drug control activities with other States. In addition, the Assembly underlined the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control issues. It reaffirmed the leadership role of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) as the main focus for concerted international action for drug abuse control and as international coordinator of drug control activities, especially within the United Nations system. The Assembly also called upon States to take all necessary steps to implement the recommendations at the national, regional and international levels contained in the Global Programme of Action adopted at its seventeenth special session.

I. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Request of the General Assembly

3. Concerning the enhancement of coordination within the United Nations system, the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/12, requested the Economic and Social Council at its coordination segment in 1994 to examine the status of international cooperation within the United Nations system against illicit drug production, sale, demand, trafficking and distribution, in order to recommend ways and means of improving such cooperation, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

B. Action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

4. With regard to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 48/12, the Commission, under item 8 of its provisional agenda, will monitor the development and implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (E/1990/39 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1). In that connection, it may wish to recommend to the Economic and Social Council ways to enhance the status of international cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system. To assist the Commission in its deliberation, a document of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council will be made available to the Commission; the document, which is currently being prepared, will contain agency-specific implementation plans called for by the Assembly in its resolutions 47/100 and 48/112, section IV.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL INSTRUMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES

A. Request of the General Assembly

5. In paragraph 9 of its resolution 48/12, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the support of UNDCP and in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), to monitor and evaluate action at the national and international levels in implementing the international drug control instruments, with a view to identifying areas of satisfactory progress and weakness, and to recommend to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in 1995 appropriate adjustments of drug control activities whenever required.

6. In paragraph 10 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Commission and the Council, with the assistance of UNDCP and INCB, to consider and make recommendations on the issues listed in that paragraph, without excluding any other aspects that could be addressed. The issues listed in subparagraphs 10 (a) to (j) included the following: giving a higher priority to drug abuse; strengthening alternative development as a means of eliminating illicit drug trafficking; harmonizing national laws and regulations; combating international criminal drug organizations; taking into account the situation of transit and producing countries; eradicating links between terrorist groups, drug traffickers and other armed criminal groups; examining the question of penalties for offences related to drug trafficking; implementing all provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.2); promoting human resource development; and encouraging the involvement of non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

7. In subparagraph 10 (k) of Assembly resolution 48/12, the Commission and the Council were requested to consider taking into account, in the course of their work, the recommendations contained in the final report of the Secretary-General on the implementation by Member States of the Global Programme of Action (A/48/286).

8. In the same resolution, the General Assembly invited the Commission, at its thirty-seventh session, to take the necessary measures to implement that resolution, including consideration of the convening of an ad hoc expert group to contribute to the examination of the issues involved and to the identification of concrete action-oriented recommendations, and to report to the Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Economic and Social Council.

B. Action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

9. In order to enable it to meet the requests of the General Assembly, the Commission should examine the most appropriate methodology of work in 1994 and 1995. Should the Commission decide to establish an ad hoc expert group in line with paragraph 11 of Assembly resolution 48/12, it should examine the nature, mandate, composition, financing, work methods and timetable of the expert group.

10. To facilitate its consideration of item 7 of its provisional agenda, the Commission will have before it a working paper, presenting options for its future work, based on informal consultations involving the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Vienna.